UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BENIN

IPF:(1987-91) $35 092 680

(BEN/90/006 - BEN/85/C01) - Integrated Rural Development in the Sub-Prefecture of Pehunco (Phase II)

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	4 March 1992
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Rural Development (MDR)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 2 273 200 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 2 273 200

Project background

The Government of Benin has opted for an economic development strategy which can be self-directed and maintained by the beneficiaries, and has adopted to that end a series of recommendations on actions to take for the effective participation of the people at the village level in the development process. In this context, it has requested UNDP assistance in setting up a programme which is aimed at improving directly socio-economic conditions in rural communities and responding to the immediate needs of local communities. At first, assistance was provided to the Government under the IPF supported project (BEN/84/006) Projet Pilote de Développement Rural intégré de Péhunco, approved in October 1986 for a period of four years. During the first months, the project has established an operational and decentralized mechanism to enable the population to progressively participate in the development of their economic and social infrastructure at the "sous-préfecture" and village level. It also provided technical support to the UNCDF project BEN/85/C01. Both the mid-term evaluation (1989) of BEN/84/006, as well as the supervision mission carried out by FAO upon the request of UNCDF (1990) recommended a second phase of the IPF and CDF financed projects. The Government of the Netherlands will also continue to provide four Dutch volunteers during this second phase.

The project has allowed an increase of agricultural (on approximately 3680 hectares) and animal production in order to reach self-sufficiency in staple food requirements, higher monetary income for farmers through better storage and marketing facilities of their crops, development of the socio-economic infrastructure through the construction of six (6) primary schools, three (3) rural health centers, thirty eight (38) water wells, seven (7) bridges and approximately twenty three (23) kms. of feeder roads, implementation of many micro-

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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projects with about (US) $ 160,000 in funding provided by the Village Equipment Fund, and active participation of the rural population in the execution of the constructions.

Taking into account the main results of the pilot project, and the views of the evaluation and supervision missions, the tripartite meeting (May 1990) recommended the formulation of a new phase which can become a model for people's participation in the development process in the whole country.

Description of project

The new phase of the project will follow up and be implemented on the basis of experience acquired by the pilot project. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen the capacity of local communities to formulate, implement and manage their own development initiatives; and (b) improve directly socio-economic conditions in rural communities which will allow the safekeeping of natural resources.

Project activities will include the organization and operation of a training programme, consisting of national and international technical assistance personnel.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 48 work-months for a CTA/expert in rural development, 48 work-months for a UNV agro-pastoralist, 48 work-months for a national sociologist, 17 work-months of international consultancies, 16 work-months of national consultancies, administrative support, 756 work-months for the required national staff; group-training and on-the-job training; vehicles, logistic equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 427 200
Training	245 500
Equipment	289 000
Miscellaneous	311 500
Total	2 273 200

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